

5988 Mid Rivers Mall Drive • Suite 100
St. Charles, Missouri 63304



636.441.6880 • FAX: 636.441.6881
www.edcsc.com

August 25, 2009

Mr. Kevin Keith, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Missouri Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102

The Honorable Steve Ehlmann
St. Charles County Executive
Executive Office Building
100 North Third Street, Suite 318
St. Charles, MO 63301

Dear Mr. Keith and County Executive Ehlmann:

On behalf of the Economic Development Center of St. Charles County (EDC), I would like to offer our support for completing Missouri Route 364 (Page Avenue) through use of a TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Grant which is being jointly sought by MoDOT and St. Charles County Government.

Our community is increasingly turning its focus to pursuing green jobs and industries, especially in the area of Alternative Energy (AE). In recent months we have been working on a number of business prospects that are involved in the research, production, and distribution of new technologies involving solar and wind energy.

Crucial to the attraction and retention of these industries is adequate infrastructure to handle the movement of employees and products.

One project that would have brought 500 much-needed new jobs to our County was considering a location in a proposed business park in Cottleville, MO that would be serviced by the continued build-out of Missouri Route 364. The lack of this roadway and a definite time-table for its completion were factors in why this business is no longer considering this location.

Missouri Route 364 will complete a missing link in the region's infrastructure network, which has been planned and supported by local, regional, and state transportation authorities for 40 years. In summary, the completion of this project will:

1. Reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions on Interstate 70, a transcontinental highway, and Interstate 64;
2. Enhance mobility to and from economically distressed areas by improving transportation choices;
3. Provide motorists with an alternative route during inspection and maintenance of the other Missouri River bridges;
4. Enhance system operations when the deck on the Missouri River bridge on Interstate 70 is replaced (\$70 million, scheduled in 2012) and during the bridge replacement on Interstate 64 (planned);
5. Provide a freeway connector from Interstate 270 to Interstate 64;
6. Facilitate more efficient freight movement on Interstate 70;
7. Provide better access for the region's employment pool to employment opportunities and retraining facilities;
8. Foster long term economic growth in underutilized properties; and
9. Attract new industrial development in the AE industry sector and other industry clusters which are vital to economic recovery and growth in our region.

Thank you for your continued ongoing initiatives to provide responsive, innovative and cost effective services to the citizens of St. Charles County, the greater St. Louis region, the State of Missouri, and the Nation.

Sincerely,



Greg Prestemon
President and CEO